

Chief Giardina's passion for public service began in his teenage years, when he began training in 1978 through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. His extraordinary work ethic and enthusiasm for public service earned him a permanent spot in the Clifton Police Department a few short years later. Not long after his appointment to the force, his success was dampened by a traumatic injury when he was run over by a vehicle traveling on Route 3. Doctors concluded that the damage would render his entire right arm permanently useless. However, his prognosis could not stop his passion for public service; he was determined to return to the police force. He was finally able to return to the force after enduring a long brutal battle through physical therapy. While life continued to present obstacles for then-officer Giardina his resilience persisted, even through lay-offs, demotions, and even brushes with death until 1988, when he was finally recognized for his incredible tenacity and was appointed to the Narcotics and Patrol Division and promoted to Sergeant.

Over the next decade his skill as a leader would earn the respect of his fellow officers and propel him to the rank of Lieutenant where he would assume command of the Community Policing Division in 1997. He was then given the rank of Captain and assigned to Field Operations in 2002. As head of the Field Operations Bureau, he was responsible for the Patrol, Traffic, and Communications Divisions which collectively made up the largest component of officers in the department until he would reach the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed as the Chief of Police in 2010.

During Chief Giardina's long career he was also able to continue his education and earn a Masters of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Baccalaureate degree from Jersey City State College of Criminal Justice. Chief Giardina is also a National and State Certified Public Manager. He has always been a strong believer in open communication and cooperation, not only within the department but also with other City, County, State, and Federal Departments. Chief Giardina has always said, "There are no unimportant jobs or people in this agency. Everyone plays an essential role in success of this Police Department". This type leadership is what has made Clifton, New Jersey a safe and welcoming place to live.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been honored to work first-hand with him on a long list of public safety issues in my district. Chief Gary Giardina has always exemplified the virtues that merit all of his accomplishments. He has been a leader, a mentor, and friend to many of us and I am honored to have worked with a man of such integrity.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Chief Gary F. Giardina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Chief Giardina's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Chief Gary F. Giardina.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN L. "JACK" STITZER, RECIPIENT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John L. "Jack" Stitzer, who was honored on May 8 as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC by Olivier Serot Almeras, the Consul General of France. Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion of Honor in 1802 when he was first consul of France. Those who qualify for this award aided in the liberation of France during World War II.

Mr. Stitzer, resident of Gordon, Pennsylvania, entered the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943, and served with the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was stationed in the United States, unaware his unit was preparing to leave for the D-Day invasion in Normandy. Mr. Stitzer served in the Third Army, which was commanded by General George S. Patton. Mr. Stitzer remained in Normandy for a few weeks before his unit of engineers travelled up the coast to clean the mines off the beaches, and ultimately fought as infantry. He and his unit travelled from Brest to Luxembourg and were stationed there until the Battle of the Bulge, where Mr. Stitzer was wounded.

Mr. Stitzer aided in the relief of the 101st Airborne Division, which defended the Belgian town of Bastogne against the Nazis by cinderling the roads for the tanks throughout the day and night. He also witnessed the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

Mr. Stitzer was also honored on May 26, 2014 as the grand marshal of the Gordon Memorial Day parade. Mr. Stitzer has received the Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Service Ribbon, Eastern Theater Offensive Ribbon with five Battle Stars, the Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal. He served in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia until he was discharged on December 19, 1945.

Mr. Stitzer and his wife live in Gordon, Pennsylvania, and have three children. After his service in World War II, he ran his father's lumber yard and hardware store, and also was a salesman for Ajax Building Materials for 20 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Stitzer for his outstanding service for our country, and for risking his life during World War II to fight in France. He serves as a role model and inspiration to all, and I offer my sincere congratulations to him on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. Weather in Chi-

cago delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 599 (Roll No. 241) and in favor of H.R. 503 (Roll No. 242).

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 50 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Army. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Matthew Ainslie, Daniel Alt, Chardai Adora Anderson, Gustabo Arguera Granados, Rajhan Jubar Atkinson, David Barber, Dustin Barnes, Luke Battle, Anthony Boothby, Nathaniel Macques Bradford, Andrew Brown, Lam Hoai Bui, Jamie Nicole Cabling, Matthew Carrero, Thomas James Cleary, Gloria Cruces-Johansson, Caleb Downing, Oscar Gonzalez, Daniel Hemmingson, Kyle Hodges, Mitchell Henry Johnson, Romulo Grame Jovero, Nershon Kamara, Hunter McConchie,

Adam Moore, Christian Josue Morales, Lisdeth Morales, Paul Nosegbe, Julius Osei Nyanin, Andrez Obando, Jacob Olave, Alexander Parada, Lisa Vianey Perez, Richard Reese, Edward Robinson, Adriana Roca, Ivonne Aracely Rojas-Telleria, Elijah Jeremiah Scott, Javil Glendon Zanniek Seaton, Billy Gene Sims, Gregory Sorbara, Peter Jordan Stefanov, Philip Suarez, Samuel Crawford Taylor, Avery Tillman, Mark Tull, Elliot Wood, Stephen Wooldrige, Edwin Xicotencatl, Clement Yeboah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE AND FLO HALL

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Joe and Flo Hall, of Lake Jackson, Texas, on the celebration of their 60th Anniversary this month.

Mr. Joe Hall married Ms. Flo Broussard on May 1, 1954. Though they both grew up in the Lake Jackson area, they did not go on their first date until after Joe returned from World War II, serving our country in the United States Army. It was true love.

After they were wed, their marriage was blessed with three adopted children that they raised while living throughout the United States. Now that they have settled back in Lake Jackson, Texas, they get to spend well-deserved time with their six grandchildren, great-grandchild, and the many children that are lovingly entrusted to their care by friends. Mr. Speaker, 60 years is a long time, and this truly is a Diamond Anniversary. To share these many years with the love of your life is a tremendous blessing.

Mr. Speaker, the institution of marriage provides the strength that holds our communities together. Maintaining a marriage requires sacrifice, understanding, patience and sometimes forgiveness by both husband and wife. Marking the 60th anniversary of a marriage is a very special occasion for not only the couple, but also for the family, friends and community they have touched.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and Flo's lives and love have been a model of excellence and are an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 60 years of happiness and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Hall all the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRIES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.,

recipient of the President's "E Star" Award for Exports.

Ocean Spray Cranberries has played a pivotal role in forwarding U.S. exports abroad through its innovative, multi-tiered marketing strategies. The team at Ocean Spray Cranberries has worked extensively with non-profits to expand U.S. agricultural exports. In this way, Ocean Spray Cranberries has been a leader in the global promotion of exports in American agriculture and serves as a model for other domestic exporters. Their achievements have also enabled Ocean Spray Cranberries to employ many Americans, including many Massachusetts cranberry growers, providing valid solutions to the issue of national unemployment. Ocean Spray has long been vital to the Commonwealth's community and region's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ocean Spray Cranberries for receiving the President's "E Star" Award for Exports. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering congratulations.

TEXAN COL. RUDDER'S BOYS OF PONTE-DU-HOC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was raining as the English Channel churned and tossed the Americans in the landing craft. The sun was coming up over the horizon, but no one could see it through the gray clouds. Thousands of teenage liberators stared into the distance to see the high cliffs of Normandy, France. It was D-Day, June 6, 1944—70 years ago.

Expecting to land on Omaha Beach at 6:30 am ahead of other Allied Forces, Texan Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder led the United States Army Rangers' 2nd Ranger Battalion into what seemed like an impossible feat.

As the treacherous weather conjured crashing waves five to six feet tall, a shifting wind tossed the Rangers off course. The mist, clouds and smoke obscured the navigation, making it hard to locate Pointe-du-Hoc from a mile out at sea. Their landing was delayed by forty minutes. Already, the mission seemed doomed. This navigational error meant two things: They would have to sail parallel to the coast facing intense enemy fire. It gave the enemy time to recover and prepare for the next assault.

For almost half an hour, the Rangers rode along the coast as bullets were flying all around them. Some Rangers were hit by enemy fire. But bleeding or not, still they pushed forward.

They battled the wind as the pelting rain blurred their vision and soaked their climbing equipment. They were exhausted and tense. The landing crafts that brought the GIs to shore were beginning to take on water, presenting yet another obstacle for Rudder's Rangers. Water began to leak in through the front ramp of the landing crafts, so the Rangers ripped up the floorboards and used their helmets to bail out the alarming amount of water rushing in all while the Nazis fired down at them atop the cliffs.

One of the landing crafts sunk from the weather and enemy fire. The brutal conditions

of the sea caused others in the landing crafts to become violently seasick. Finally, the Rangers reached the eastern side of the Pointe, their new designated landing spot. It was now 7:10 am The battle had just begun, and the odds were stacking up against Rudder's success.

The Rangers were miserable, cold, wet and seasick; some bleeding from injury but none wavered. Their mission: to conquer the cliffs at Pointe-du-Hoc and find the big German guns. The guns could reap havoc on later landings.

No longer was the weather their only enemy. As the first shoe print was made in the wet sand of Normandy, the Rangers came under brutal fire from atop the cliffs as the enemy chunked grenades down at them. The men had to resist the urge to take out the machine guns because the primary mission was to climb. Fifteen men were already lost in the crossing of the beach. Divided into three units, Lt. Col. Rudder prepared to lead the Provisional Rangers, task force A of 250 men up the cliffs. They moved quickly with precision and expertise. They shifted through the chaos that ensued around them all while operating soaking wet equipment. (The ropes attached to the grappling hooks were heavy with water and thus could not reach the top of the cliffs when launched from a mortar.)

The Rangers used rope ladders, a few dry grappling hooks and steel ladders to scale the cliffs. Their machine guns were clogged with mud. Amidst enemy fire and malfunctioning equipment, the Rangers were flung back and forth climbing the wet ropes.

While some Rangers provided cover on the beach, amazingly, the first ones to the top, conquered the cliff in 10 minutes. They in turn provided covering fire for the ones still on the beach.

As soon as the Rangers pulled themselves over the cliff, snipers immediately fired. Fortunately, the heaving bombing the Americans had done to the island in the days beforehand had created large craters in earth. This allowed the Rangers to hide themselves from the enemy fire.

Within half an hour, the remaining task forces had made it up the tall cliffs. Rudder, bleeding from two gunshot wounds, never let his focus waver or his determination grow weary. He discovered quickly that the Germans had left wooden decoys in the gun casements. Exhausted, wounded and bewildered, Rudder kept pushing the Rangers inland. They had to find the big guns. Around 8:00 am small patrols were sent south to locate the missing guns. By 9:00 am, their second goal completed. Now, they had to take them out.

The Rangers had located the missing guns 600 yards south of the Pointe. The Nazis had hidden the guns back from the beach to protect them from Allied air strikes and naval bombardment.

Rudders' Rangers took out the emplacements using thermite grenades and eliminated the enemy protecting them.

The mission though completed in spite of the horrific obstacles was not without cost. Rudder's Rangers had over 50 percent casualties. Some Rangers gave their lives that summer morning conquering the cliffs.

As American blood was shed on the French beaches and cliffs, General Rudder had secured the beachhead for later Allied Forces coming ashore. This paved the way to eventual victory.